

CLAIMS:

1. A method for electronically reserving a parking space at a parking facility through a computer network, the method

5 comprising the steps of:

accessing by a user communication with a server computer on the computer network, the server computer operating a program for reserving a parking space at a parking facility and containing data relating to a plurality of parking facilities;

10 identifying a parking facility and the time for which a parking space is required in the parking facility;

reserving the parking space in the parking facility;

15 effecting payment for the parking space by providing or identifying information to enable the server computer to directly or indirectly transfer funds for the parking reservation from a user designated payment source to a target account; and

receiving confirmation from the server computer that the parking reservation has been made.

20 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the parking facility is selected from the group consisting of: office building, sports stadium, airport, concert or theater.

25 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the user accesses from a PC computer.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein multiple parking spaces are identified in a parking facility and the parking reservation is for an extended period of time.

5. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the extended period of time is a one month parking reservation in an office building.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein reserving the space is carried out by reviewing information provided by the server computer in response to data input by the user and following prompts by the server computer to indicate that information is approved.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein payment is effected by inputting credit card information to the server computer to enable credit card payment for the reserved parking space by electronic debiting of the credit card account.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein payment is effected by providing bank account particulars of the user to facilitate electronic transfer of funds between the user designated payment source and the target account.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the confirmation received comprises a printout including an access code for entry to the parking facility.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising processing security and/or password information to limit access to information to a particular user.

5 11. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising accessing of the server computer by a parking facility owner to receive data relating to a preselected parking facility.

10 12. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising accessing of the server computer by a parking facility operator to receive data relating to a preselected parking facility.

15 13. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising accessing of the server computer by a full system operator to receive data relating to a preselected parking facility, as well as the capability to modify the computer program.

20 14. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein different users have different levels of access to the information contained in the server computer.

25 15. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein accessing by a user of the server computer is accomplished by means of a modem or high speed connection between the user computer and the server computer.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein accessing by a user of the server computer is accomplished by means of a dedicated connection line between the user computer and the server computer.

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17. A computer based parking reservation system for making parking reservations through use of a computer network, the system comprising:

a server computer on the computer network for operating a parking reservation program and containing data relating to parking facilities and users thereof;

means within the server computer for receiving and processing data received from users through computers in the computer network relating to a parking space to be reserved at a parking facility at a selected time;

transfer of funds from an account designated by the user to a target account of a parking facility operator; and

a parking reservation confirmation message to the user relating to the parking reservation.

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18. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the server computer provides different levels of access to information and data according to the nature of the user.

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19. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the confirmation received comprises a computer screen message thereof.

20. A method for electronically modifying a reservation of a parking space at a parking facility through a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing by a user communication with a server computer on the computer network, the server computer operating a program for reserving a parking space at a parking facility and containing data relating to a plurality of parking facilities;

identifying a parking facility and the time for which a parking space in the parking facility has previously been made;

modifying previously recorded data relating to the reservation of the parking space in the parking facility;

effecting payment or receiving a refund for the parking space by providing or identifying information to enable the server computer to directly or indirectly transfer funds for the parking reservation between a user designated payment source and a target account; and

receiving confirmation from the server computer that the parking reservation has been modified.